

**From:** Stephen Baker  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 10:11pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

Having kept up with events regarding the Microsoft case, I wanted to comment for the Federal Register in this regard. My view is that Judge Kollar-Kotelly should approve the settlement between Microsoft, the Department of Justice and nine attorneys general and that this will serve the taxpayers of American very well.

Earlier as this case unfolded, I communicated to elected officials from North Carolina my opposition to the initial case as I believe it showed undue interference from the federal government against a company which was one of the most successful the world has ever known. The fact that nearly all home and business users depend on Microsoft products simply means that their products are efficient and economical. No consumer harm has ever been shown, even by the attorney arguing the case.

That is why that I hope the judge will approve this settlement since Microsoft will allow monitoring and agree to guarantee equity to suppliers and others. In fact, Microsoft was willing to settle with the government a year ago, but the state attorneys general blocked the settlement and Microsoft stock fell sharply.

As a person who believes in the less government intervention the better, I don't want any company to ever get in a situation where their economic future is mandated by the federal government. If the company cannot perform in the marketplace, has lousy products or is outgunned by competitors, so be it. But that's the way it's supposed to be -- not getting lambasted by the Department of Justice.

Thanks for your time in reviewing my views on this issue

Sincerely,

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